

Steps to Develop a Character

Use the following statements to help you develop your characters. Use these statements for each character in your story.

1. Write a sentence which introduces your character by name and occupation.
ex: Mark Roberts, a sports writer for the school newspaper, decided he needed a vacation.
2. Write several sentences describing your character's facial appearance. Make sure you give details about size and color.
ex: Mark's deep-set, dark, brown eyes sparkled in merriment. He ran his hand through his short, light-blond hair still wet from his early morning shower. When he smiled a small dimple appeared.
note: you may wish to include any distinguishing characteristics such as nose, mouth, ears, skin texture, scars, facial hair, or teeth.
3. Write one or more sentences describing your character's physical traits. These include the way the character sits, walks, stands; the character's weight, height, general build, the character's age (how old the character looks); the way the character speaks; and what someone would first notice about your character. **note:** You could also describe the character's choice of clothing.
ex: Mark walked confidently toward the newspaper office; his years of playing college football were evident by his physical bearing. Ignoring the crowded elevator, he lightly ran up the three flights of stairs to his office. Swinging open the door, he noticed the receptionist's admiring glance. "Good morning," he said in his soft Texas drawl.
4. Write several sentences telling about your character's goals or wishes. Include the character's greatest awards, successes, dreams, and desires.
ex: Mark sat down at his desk and stared at the framed picture of himself and Lydia. He thought about the last fight they had. He wanted to pursue his dream of becoming the city's leading sports writer. Someday, he hoped to cover the Olympics, he had told her. As he thought about Lydia, he glanced at the bookshelf. On it he had his football trophies from high school and college. That's what Lydia wanted--a football hero. The bookshelf also contained his scrapbook of articles he had written in college and for the paper which illustrated some of his best work.